



Gelligaer Urban District Council.



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the year

1967

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THE JOURNAL OF THE



REPORT

OF THE

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE YEAR

1907

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COUNCIL OFFICES
HENGOED

15th. July, 1968.

Telephone :-

Hengoed 2241.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1967.

The Report is based on lines indicated in Circular 1/68 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health. The Report gives an account of work undertaken by the Public Health Department, together with information from the Housing Department, the Taf Fechan Water Board, and the Glamorgan County Council. As a result, statistics on the health of the Community, together with information and factors affecting health are presented.

The estimated mid-year population was 34,770.

There were 657 live births, and 11 still-births. Of these, 35 were illegitimate births. These figures are very similar to those for 1966.

During 1967, there were 385 deaths. Again, the chief causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulatory system. 51 males and 25 females died of coronary disease. This disease continues to be a major cause of death in middle aged men. Its aetiology is still uncertain, and several factors such as heredity, hormonal functions, lack of adequate exercise, and diet are thought to be of importance.

Cancer is second in importance as a cause of death. 8 men in the area died of cancer of the lung in 1967. This is the lowest number since 1958. It is quite likely that the lowering of the incidence of cigarette smoking is responsible in part for the decline. The connection between cigarette smoking and lung cancer has been known to most people for a number of years, and many have given up this dangerous habit.

Bronchitis still takes a toll of life, chiefly in Wales, and this is probably attributable to industrial hazards in the area.

In females, disease of the heart and arteries is also the chief cause of death, but this proves fatal at a rather later age than in males. Cancer of the stomach, breast and uterus continues to be an important cause of death in females.



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The Infant Mortality Rate in our area was high in 1967. Most of the deaths are attributable to prematurity, congenital defect, and conditions associated directly with the birth, but there is a disturbing number of deaths from broncho-pneumonia between the ages of 3 and 12 months. The only serious cause of death in older children and young adults is accident.

Accurate information on non-fatal illness is difficult to obtain. At the end of the year there was considerable absenteeism from school and work attributed to influenza. Only one death from influenza was recorded during the year.

Measles has continued to cause a great deal of illness in children. It is hoped that with the administration of the new vaccine which is to commence on a large scale in 1968 the number of cases of measles notified will fall considerably. A vaccine against Rubella (German Measles) is also on the way to general use.

Scabies is on the increase again, after many years of freedom from the condition. Although normally the condition is easily cured, difficulty arises when there are large families with the condition who are living in houses without bathrooms, especially as all the members of the family need to have treatment simultaneously.

In our area, as in the country as a whole, we are seeing a rapid decline in the number of notifications and deaths due to tuberculosis. The number of new cases of tuberculosis was the lowest ever recorded. In other countries, however, the ' White Plague' is still unconquered and it is estimated that there are up to 20 million cases of infectious tuberculosis in the world today. This is reflected in the high incidence of tuberculosis amongstimmigrants.

The generous services given by the Council to the aged in the area are very much appreciated by the increasing number of old people in the area. These services include concessionary 'bus fares, housing, and the meals' service. Here, I would like to pay tribute to the staff responsible for the Meals for the Aged Scheme. They are devoted to their work, and to the old people, and do, without being asked, so much more than could reasonably be expected of them.

During the year, a scheme has been started whereby arrangements are made for girls from Lewis School, Ystrad Mynach to visit some of the lonely aged in the area.

Education of the public on health matters is one of the functions of a Public Health Department, and during 1967 a special campaign was organised in order to reduce the number of accidents in the home. I would like to thank members of the Council, staff of the Welsh Board of Health, Glamorgan County Council, Fire Service, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Police, Public Health Department, and business men of the locality, together with all others who so willingly co-operated in the venture. I was grateful, too, for the support of our Chairman of the Council, members of the Public Health Committee, and our Member of Parliament, the late Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards.

I wish to pay tribute to my colleagues for the efficient and enthusiastic way in which they have worked during the past year. Work in the field of preventive medicine is usually less spectacular than work in curative medicine. A heart transplant is applauded much more than the everyday work of prevention of the conditions which cause heart disease, and yet the latter method is likely to save more suffering and many more lives. Because of this lack of drama, I feel that the importance of the work of a Public Health Department is often not fully appreciated.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all Members and Officers of the Council for their great help and consideration during 1967.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH G. JAMES

Medical Officer of Health.

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL 1967/68

Chairman - J. H. Jones, O.St. J., J.P.
Vice - Chairman - W. H. Coleman

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

H. A. Andrews	R. J. Jones
W. Bowen	W. Jones , J.P.
E. E. Burgess	Ald. W. H. Lee
D. B. Cooke	Hopkin Lewis
A. E. Carey	James Morris
John Davies	W. Poyntz
R. Dymond	G. T. Richards, J.P.
H. V. Edwards	A. R. Rogers
B. Harris	H. J. B. Rogers
D. E. Harris	H. L. Roberts, J.P.
P. G. Hancock	K. G. Turner
F. J. Jenkins	Cledwen Williams

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - H. V. Edwards
Vice-Chairman - D. B. Cooke

H. A. Andrews
Walter Bowen
W. H. Coleman
R. Dymond
P. G. Hancock
J. H. Jones
R. J. Jones
J. Morris
Ald. W. H. Lee
William Poyntz
G. T. Richards, J.P.
A. R. Rogers

CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council	-	D. W. C. Morgan, Ll. B.
Treasurer and Accountant	-	H. E. B. Matthews, A.I. M. T. A.
Engineer and Surveyor	-	W. T. Luke, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.
Housing Manager	-	G. Lloyd Williams, A.R.S.H., F.V.I., M.F.B.
Omnibus Manager	-	Roy Marshall, A.M. Inst. T.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	-	Elizabeth G. James, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	T. P. Thomas, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.H.
District Public Health Inspector	-	E. G. Rawlings, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.H.
Clerical Staff	-	L. Chilton
Pupil Public Health Inspector	-	G. Walwyn
Rodent Officer	-	L. J. Trollope
Meals Organiser	-	Mrs. D. Bate.

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Population	-	34,770
Total Acreage	-	16,772
Rateable value	-	£694,882
Product ld. rate	-	£2,705

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population - 34,770

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>								<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	622	327	295
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	14	21
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	657	341	316
<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>										
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	6	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	6	5

LIVE BIRTHS

1958	...	647
1959	...	648
1960	...	605
1961	...	634
1962	...	688
1963	...	675
1964	...	676
1965	...	690
1966	...	658
1967	...	657

As a matter of interest I give the following figures :-

1901	...	717
1911	...	1720
1921	...	1363
1931	...	847
1941	...	733
1951	...	631
1961	...	634

There were 35 illegitimate births during 1967. Of these, one died and 4 were placed for adoption. The remainder either live with the unmarried mother or with both parents who are not married but co-habiting. In addition to illegitimate births, there are many extra-marital conceptions, but where the parents marry before the birth of the child. It has been estimated that approximately 1 in 3 brides under 20 years are pregnant at the time of marriage. Contraceptive advice to unmarried girls was not available in official clinics in the area during 1967.

DEATHS

During the year, deaths numbered 385 - males 213 ; females 172.

1958	-	384
1959	-	390
1960	-	411
1961	-	396
1962	-	423
1963	-	425
1964	-	398
1965	-	416
1966	-	413
1967	-	385

MATERNAL DEATHS

There was one maternal death during the year.

In considering the Registrar General's Returns, there are points of interest. Following is a Table showing the number of deaths in each of three age groups for the past ten years. It is interesting to note how many people live beyond the age of 65.

Age at death - 1967	Males	Females
55 - 65	63	16
65 - 75	72	53
75 and over	43	69

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Number of deaths occurring before the age of 1	18	18	26	20	15	26	23	14	13	19
Number occurring between 1 and 65	121	104	130	123	135	133	135	153	130	129
Number occurring upwards of 65	245	268	255	253	273	266	240	249	270	237

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Disease ...	62	62	124
Deaths from Cancer	34	29	63
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	20	24	44
Deaths from Measles	-	-	-
Deaths from Bronchitis	31	5	36
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis, Enteritis ...	2	2	4
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	1	4
Deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	3	4	7
Deaths from Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Deaths from Influenza	1	-	1
Deaths from Pneumonia	12	13	25
Deaths from other diseases of the Respiratory System	16	4	20
Deaths from other Violent Causes	8	5	13
Deaths from Diabetes	2	2	4
Deaths from Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Deaths from Congenital Malformations	2	2	4

<u>Thus :-</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Disease	145	116	146	155	124
Deaths from Cancer	65	71	71	63	63
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	62	45	44	46	44
Deaths from Bronchitis	29	48	48	47	36
Deaths from Violent Causes	15	19	18	16	20

Diseases of the arteries of the heart continue to be prominent :-

in 1967, 51 males and 25 females died from this cause, as compared with
in 1966, 56 males and 29 females ;
in 1965, 51 males and 13 females ;
in 1964, 41 males and 14 females ;
in 1963, 38 males and 34 females ;
in 1962, 56 males and 24 females ;
in 1961, 39 males and 12 females ;

DEATHS FROM CANCER

The total number of deaths from all forms of Cancer was 63 :-

1958	-	64
1959	-	66
1960	-	62
1961	-	62
1962	-	68
1963	-	65
1964	-	71
1965	-	71
1966	-	63
1967	-	63

CANCER OF THE LUNG

1958	-	8	- all males
1959	-	9	- 8 males, 1 female.
1960	-	11	- 7 males, 4 females.
1961	-	15	- 13 males, 2 females.
1962	-	16	- 14 males, 2 females.
1963	-	11	- 11 males.
1964	-	12	- 12 males.
1965	-	18	- 17 males, 1 female.
1966	-	10	- 10 males
1967	-	8	- all males

During the year 1967, Cancer caused the death of 63 persons. This figure is the same as that for 1966, which was the lowest for 5 years.

Cancer of the lung shows the lowest figure for the past 8 years.

There were 385 deaths in the area in 1967.

The Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population was 11.1 compared with 11.2 for England and Wales, and 11.8 for the County of Glamorgan. When this Crude Death Rate is adjusted for age, however, we find that the ratio to the national Rate is 1.28, compared with 1.20 for Glamorgan. After adjustment, therefore, it can be seen that the Death Rate in the Gelligaer District is a little higher than in the Glamorgan County as a whole, and also higher than the Rate for England and Wales.

The chief cause of death continues to be Disease of the Heart and Circulatory System, which together with Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System accounted for 168 of the 385 deaths.

The next important cause of death is Cancer (causing 63 deaths).

Bronchitis continues to cause many deaths - 36, of which 31 were in males. The predominance of the condition in Wales points to the importance of industrial hazards in the area.

There were 7 deaths as a result of road accidents ; 11 deaths due to other accidents, and 2 suicides. These 20 deaths are very tragic as they might all well have been avoided.

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INFANTILE MORTALITY

AGE AT DEATH	DEATHS OCCURRING IN HOSPITAL		DEATHS OCCURRING AT HOME	
	NO.	CAUSE	NO.	CAUSE
0 - 1 days	-		1 3	Resp. failure Prematurity
1 - 2 days	-		2	Prematurity
2 - 3 days	-		-	
3 - 4 days	-		-	
4 - 5 days	-		-	
5 - 6 days	-		-	
6 - 7 days	-		-	
1 - 2 weeks	-		1 1	Cerebral haem. Broncho - pneu.
2 - 3 weeks	-		-	
3 - 4 weeks	-		-	
1 - 2 months	1 1	Broncho-pneumonia Congenital heart defect	-	
2 - 3 months	1	Pulmonary oedema	-	
3 - 4 months	2	Broncho-pneumonia	1	Cerebral haem.
4 - 5 months	1	Pulmonary oedema	1	Hydroencephalus and Spina Bifida
5 - 6 months	1	Broncho-pneumonia	-	
6 - 7 months	-		-	
7 - 8 months	-		-	
8 - 9 months	1	Mastoiditis	-	
9 - 10 months	-		1	Broncho-pneu.
10 - 11 months	-		-	
11 - 12 months				
TOTAL	8		11	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

		<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Deaths of infants under one year	...	10	9	19
Legitimate	...	9	9	18
Illegitimate	...	1	-	1

As shown by the Table of Vital Statistics, the Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births in :-

the Administrative County of Glamorgan was 19.00 (21.17 in 1966)
the Gelligaer Urban Area was 29.00 (19.76 in 1966).

There were 11 still-births (2 less than in 1966), giving a still-birth rate of 16 per 1,000 total births, compared with 14.18 for England and Wales, and 19 for the Administrative County of Glamorgan.

The perinatal mortality represents the still-births and infant deaths under 1 week. In 1967, Gelligaer Urban District had a perinatal mortality of 25 per 1,000 live and still-births ; in comparison, the figure was 25.4 for England and Wales, and 30 for the Administrative County. Of the 17 perinatal deaths in Gelligaer, 11 were still-births, and the rest were caused by prematurity and conditions associated directly with birth. The perinatal death rate varies with the age of the mother, poverty, social class, and the number of obstetrical complications and the standard of obstetrical care. The report of the British Perinatal Mortality Survey (Butler and Bonham 1963) draws attention to the importance of careful ante-natal supervision and specialist services to expectant mothers in certain high risk categories.

Of the deaths of infants over the age of 1 week and under 1 year,

- 3 were caused by congenital heart defects
- 1 was caused by cerebral haemorrhage
- 5 were caused by broncho-pneumonia
- 2 were caused by pulmonary oedema
- 1 was caused by mastoiditis

The chief cause of death in this age group is infection, and this is more likely to occur in large families, overcrowded living conditions, poor housing conditions and where there is a low standard of living.

I append a table showing the Infant Mortality rate in Gelligaer in the past ten years :-

1958	-	27 . 82
1959	-	27 . 78
1960	-	42 . 98
1961	-	31 . 55
1962	-	21 . 80
1963	-	38 . 52
1964	-	34 . 02
1965	-	20 . 29
1966	-	19 . 76
1967	-	29 . 00

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - AGES DISTRIBUTION

Disease	Total	0- 1	1- 2	2- 3	3- 4	4- 5	5- 15	15- 25	25- 45	45- 65	65- 75	75 and over
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

15 Whooping Cough
517 Measles

Measles

There were 517 cases of Measles during 1967 in the Gelligaer district, but no deaths occurred. There are many complications, however, with this illness. Mass vaccination against Measles will start in June, 1968 and it is hoped that as a result the number of cases notified will fall considerably.

Whooping Cough

15 cases of Whooping Cough were notified, but it is quite likely that cases occurred which were not notified. The illness in immunised children is often a modified form and difficult to recognise. The number of notifications, however, is on the increase over former years and this may be due to a change in the antigenic nature of the causal organisms, while the strain used in the vaccines has until recently remained unchanged.

Brucellosis

To my knowledge no case of human brucellosis occurred in the district. The disease is acquired by close contact with infected animals or by drinking milk which has not been sterilised or pasteurised. Samples of untreated milk produced in the area are taken regularly by the Public Health Inspectors, and all samples during 1967 proved to be free of the disease.

Infectious Hepatitis

Although on my visits to schools I am aware of the occurrence of many cases of infectious jaundice, it is not possible to make an accurate assessment of its incidence as this at present is not notifiable. In 1968, this disease will become notifiable.

Scabies

Scabies seems to be on the increase again after a long period. During the last war there were extensive epidemics of this condition. The Department has been asked for advice on this by schools and factories.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 - 69 years	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
70 years and over	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	2	1	-	-	3	1	-	1

INCIDENCE AND DEATHS

<u>YEAR</u>		<u>INCIDENCE</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>
1958	...	30	...	1
1959	...	33	...	4
1960	...	30	...	6
1961	...	19	...	6
1962	...	15	...	9
1963	...	18	...	5
1964	...	13	...	1
1965	...	18	...	4
1966	...	10	...	-
1967	...	3	...	5

TUBERCULOSIS

In 1967, only three new cases of Tuberculosis were notified. This is the lowest figure ever recorded. One of these patients was aged 50, and both of the others over the age of 70 years.

There were five deaths from the disease.

A glance at the table will show how the disease is being conquered in this area over the past 20 years. Notification gives the best guide to this progress as deaths often occur in patients who were notified many years ago.

The fall in the incidence of Tuberculosis has occurred as a result of improved standards of living and better housing, together with the great advances made in the treatment and care of patients by the anti-tuberculous drugs. Once treatment is started, the patients soon become non-infectious so that other people in contact with them do not get the disease.

B. C. G. vaccination of contacts and of all children of school leaving age has also played a large part in the control of Tuberculosis.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

During 1967, the Mass Radiography Units paid visits to Bedlinog, Trelewis and Ystrad Mynach. A total of 1,055 people were x-rayed, and of these 98 people were found to have abnormalities, 10 people requiring further investigation. 85 were found to be suffering from Pneumoconiosis, and 5 from Emphysema. No active case of Tuberculosis was found, but 3 cases of healed tuberculosis were detected. No case of Cancer of the lung was found.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following information has been received from Dr. P. John, the Divisional Medical Officer of the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division :-

Smallpox Vaccination and re-vaccination	-	161
Immunisation with Triple Antigen	-	791
Poliomyelitis vaccination	-	2019

(The figures for Poliomyelitis relate to Caerphilly and Gelligaer)

HOUSING

The Council's Housing Department has supplied the following information :-

Number of houses completed and occupied in 1967	-	175
Number sanctioned and in course of erection	-	295
Number completed and occupied since 1918	-	2,385
Number of applicants for housing on the list at 31st. December, 1967	-	848
Number of families rehoused in 1967	-	263
Number of families in which tuberculosis was a factor	-	1
Number of families rehoused as a result of Closing Orders	-	3
Number of Old Age Pensioners rehoused	-	30

The aluminium bungalows at Cefn Hengoed were demolished during 1967, and new Industrialised Bungalows have been erected on the original bases. The tenants were temporarily rehoused at Gelligaer, and those who wished to return have now done so. Gilfach Fargoed site was commenced during 1967 but the lettings have not yet commenced. When this site is completed it should greatly reduce the waiting lists, as the longest list of people awaiting rehousing is for the Bargoed Area.

The housing of 'problem families' continues as one of the major problems. These families usually have dirty, ill-kept houses with uncultivated gardens, and are often in arrears with rent. They are thus classified as the most unsatisfactory of tenants. Eviction, however, may mean the break-up of the family unit and, if children have to be taken into care of the local authority there is an added burden of cost on the community. When these families are Council tenants, every effort is taken, with the co-operation of the Welfare Department of the Glamorgan County Council, to avoid eviction and to try to keep the family together.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution was continued at Bargoed during the year :-

<u>Month</u>				<u>Rainfall - in inches</u> <u>per square mile.</u>				<u>Solids - in tons</u> <u>per square mile</u>
January	...	...	...	4 . 26	...			17 . 24
February	...	...	...	7 . 97	...			24 . 54
March	...	...	...	2 . 73	...			11 . 32
April	...	...	...	1 . 00	...			9 . 10
May	...	...	...	8 . 29	...			28 . 24
June	...	...	...	1 . 60	...			7 . 04
July	...	...	...	1 . 97	...			4 . 57
August	...		...	2 . 97	...			9 . 46
September	...	...	...	4 . 50	...			0 . 63
October	...	...	...	10 . 01	...			0 . 49
November	...	...	...	2 . 54	...			0 . 45
December	...	...	...	3 . 26	...			0 . 36

Total amount collected per square mile in the past years was :-

1967	...	113 . 44 tons
1966	...	196 . 36 tons
1965	...	239 . 04 tons
1964	...	199 . 94 tons
1963	...	210 . 33 tons
1962	...	197 . 93 tons
1961	...	229 . 17 tons
1960	...	294 . 53 tons
1959	...	361 . 56 tons

Thus, the figure for 1967 is the lowest recorded.

The extent of pollution by deposited matter is determined by exposing a standard deposit gauge for a period of one month on the roof of the Emporium at Bargoed, and then examining the sample. This district is probably the worst in the Gelligaer area.

From September 1967 there appears to be a remarkable drop in the readings obtained.

Variations occur as a result of changes in wind direction, velocity, rainfall and other meteorological factors, and also, to some extent, with the lessening of domestic fuel consumption in the summer months. However, over the past nine years there has been a downward trend in the readings, making 1967 the lowest ever recorded.

The national average is approximately 200 tons per square mile.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

I am grateful to Mr. D. G. Rowlands, the Divisional Engineer to the Taf Fechan Water Board for the following report :-

(1) - Water Supplies - Bacteriological Examination

A total of 143 samples were taken of the various supplies in the area as follows :-

Rhymney Bridge Reservoir :	Treated water	-	48 samples taken
			All satisfactory.
Deri Reservoir :	Treated Water	-	47 samples taken
			44 satisfactory
			3 unsatisfactory.
Taf Fechan Reservoir :	Treated water	-	48 samples taken
			All satisfactory.

(2) - Works

During the year, Heolddu Service Reservoir came into operation and also the new Filter House at Rhymney Bridge.

(3) - Housing Sites etc.

Work of mainlaying in the area was carried out at a number of housing sites for both the Council and private developers.

(4) - Supply Position

In general, supplies were well maintained throughout the year, but it was necessary to apply restrictions from the 7th. and 12th. July 1967 to 7th. August 1967 prohibiting the use of water for the purpose of watering private gardens or washing private motor cars or any water supplied through a hosepipe or similar apparatus.

SWIMMING POOL

The Council maintains a large open-air swimming pool in the park at Bargoed. It is open every year from May to September. Being an open pool, the attendance is affected by the weather.

For the safety of bathers, it is necessary that adequate chlorination and a high degree of clarity of the water are always present. Periodically during the year, the Public Health Inspectors and I made frequent visits to the pool, taking occasional samples of the water for analysis.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

I am indebted to Dr. W. E. Thomas, the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information. The following samples were taken in the Gelligaer Area by the County Sampling Officer during 1967 :-

1	Ground Almonds
1	Aspirins
1	Cake Mixture
2	Cheese Spread
2	Condensed Milk
2	Cooking fat
1	Dessicated Coconut
1	Canned Fish
1	Frozen fish
1	Flour
7	Fruit Juice
2	Honey
2	Ice Cream
1	Jam
1	Lard
1	Margarine
12	Milk
1	Mincemeat
1	Olive Oil
1	Rice
1	Sauces
1	Semolina
1	Soda Water
1	Canned Soup
1	Tea
4	Vinegar
1	Cooking Oil
1	Jelly

SERVICES FOR THE AGEDMEALS FOR THE AGED SERVICE

During 1967, 86,000 meals were supplied to pensioners in the Gelligaer Area. Approximately half of these were delivered to people confined to their own homes, the rest being consumed at the 13 luncheon clubs established throughout the area. The meals are very much appreciated by the housebound, and the members of the staff who deliver the meals are most considerate in their dealings with the helpless old people, even going as far as to feed the old people in some cases where arthritis makes every movement difficult. They also carry messages from the aged to relatives, call in the family doctor, and report other problems to the Public Health Department. The luncheon clubs are staffed by volunteers and great credit is due to these people without whom this part of the service could not continue. These meals at luncheon clubs provide many old people with companionship and an incentive to dress up and go out. For many of the old people these clubs provide not only a source of getting a meal or companionship, but an opportunity of giving their services and help to others so that their lives have begun to have new purpose. In an 'umbrella service' such as is run by this Council, there will be many receiving meals who perhaps could cope on their own, but this is the best way of getting into the scheme those who urgently require this help. It is not only those who are in financial difficulties who benefit from the scheme, but many old people with no financial problems just have not the energy and incentive to feed themselves adequately.

LIVING OF OLD PEOPLE

The Council has provided 51 bungalows and 83 one-bedroomed flats for the elderly. It also has 32 units of accommodation at St. Gwladys' Court Bargoed, where there is a Warden on the premises.

During 1967, 30 old-aged pensioners were rehoused by the Council. The waiting list for old people shows 44 sub-tenants and 72 tenants.

The decision of the Council to rehouse tenant old-aged pensioners in certain circumstances will be a great help to many of the aged living in large houses where the rest of the family has left or died. For these, one of the chief problems is in keeping themselves warm. Fuel bills are often a constant source of worry and we have known many old people during the last winter who have lived in their coats for many weeks. On one occasion, I saw a very ill old lady huddled round a gas ring in an attempt to keep warm. Hypothermia in the aged is a serious and ever present threat to their health and to their lives.

St. Gwladys' Court continues to provide housing for the fragile aged who, without the security of knowing that they could call on the Warden in an emergency, could not manage on their own. They thus maintain their independence with the security of knowing that help is at hand if necessary. Companionship and entertainment is available for those who wish to have these, and a luncheon club is established there subsidised by voluntary help. If the old people become too ill to manage on their own, they sometimes go to live with relatives, and, in some cases, have to go to hospital, but it is with regret that they give up their homes. This reluctance to leave sometimes poses a problem for the warden and sometimes for the other residents when they feel responsible for a person too ill to be left alone.

GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL
SERVICES FOR THE AGED

HOME HELP SERVICE

In the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Division of the Glamorgan County Council, 2 full-time, 47 part-time, and 46 casual home helps are employed. Over 80% of the work of the home helps is with people who are over the age of 65.

CHIROPODY SERVICE

Clinics in the Gelligaer area are at Bargoed, Ystrad Mynach, Fochriw and Pontlottyn. Chiropody service is also given in patients' own homes where they are unable to attend the clinics. In the whole of the Division over 5,000 treatments were carried out.

NIGHT SITTER-IN SERVICE

4 night-sitters are employed in the Division.

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE

In the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Division 58,843 visits to patients were made in 1967 by district nurses, and 35,831 of these were made to people over the age of 65 years.

HEALTH VISITORS

Health Visitors in the Division made 1,878 visits to persons over the age of 65.

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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

No action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act during 1967.

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HEALTH EDUCATION

The chief function of a Public Health Department is the prevention of ill-health, disability and death. One of the weapons in this continuous fight is education of the public on health matters. Health Education goes on day after day when Public Health Inspectors visit and give advice in food shops, offices, and private homes. In addition, special campaigns can be organised in order to bring to the notice of the public certain factors leading to death or suffering.

SAFETY IN THE HOME CAMPAIGN

Accidents in the home are equivalent in public health terms to a major epidemic causing loss of life between 8,000 and 9,000 people in this country each year. In addition, it is estimated that $1\frac{1}{2}$ million people require out-patient treatment, and a further 70,000 remain as in-patients as a result of home accidents. The Gelligaer Council decided in 1967 to sponsor a campaign to bring these facts home to the public. The week chosen for the campaign was October 7th. to 14th., and commenced with a meeting of influential members of the community in the area who were addressed by a senior Medical Officer of the Welsh Board of Health. Members of the Glamorgan County Public Health and Education Departments co-operated, together with Police, and the Glamorgan Fire Service. During the week, school children were given talks and shown films by Health Visitors and senior members were instructed in resuscitation by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Divisional Education Department organised essay competitions amongst the school children and the winners were presented with prizes awarded by the Council. Lectures and films were also presented at Old Age Pensioners' meetings, and posters and leaflets were distributed throughout the area. Many business firms put in window displays, and the Fire Service and the Police also had special window displays. The Press were also very co-operative in giving space for special features and articles during the week.

CIGARETTE SMOKING

The campaign against cigarette smoking continues in our schools. Health Visitors continue to give talks and show films to school children in an effort to prevent boys and girls from starting to smoke. The Gelligaer Council provides and displays posters in public places, and discourage smoking in places where people congregate. Approximately 22,000 people die in this country each year as a result of cancer of the lung. There are 40 times as many deaths from this cause as there were in 1910 when few people smoked cigarettes. Responsible medical opinion, although agreeing that atmospheric pollution and certain occupational hazards play a part, is convinced that cigarette smoking is mainly responsible for the increase of cancer of the lung. Carefully controlled investigation in many countries has confirmed this.

FACILITIES FOR THOSE IN NEED

In addition to education on definite hazards to life and health, it is important for the public to know where they can obtain help in times of stress, such as disablement, old age, sudden illness and so on. The Public Health Department has a duty to inform members of the public at these times, and also to bring to their notice the functions of the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Officer so that the best use can be made of services available.

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MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF COUNCIL STAFF

During 1967, 114 medical examinations were undertaken for the Authority. These included :-

- (a) - Examination of all new employees.
- (b) - Examination of those employees who because of ill-health are engaged in a temporary capacity.
- (c) - Examination of employees on return to work after illness to ascertain their fitness to carry out their duties satisfactorily. These examinations are of special importance for members of the kitchen staff and 'bus drivers.
- (d) - Requests from heads of Departments to investigate prolonged or repeated absence from work, especially where the integrity of the employee is in doubt.

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REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1967

I present my Report on the day-to-day work of the Public Health Department for the year 1967.

The year, generally, was uneventful, and the routine work of the Department proceeded smoothly.

On 1st. January, 1967, the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Amendment Regulations 1966 came into operation. These Regulations, which are supplemental to the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, define mobile vehicles which sell food as ' stalls' and as such they must comply with the requirements laid down in the Regulations if open foods are sold - open food meaning food which is unwrapped or unprotected when handled. As usual, however, in Regulations of this kind, certain exemptions are permitted, one of the most important of these being that in relation to the sale and delivery of bread from bakers' vans. Probably the greatest percentage of bread sold today is pre-packed before despatch from the Bakery, and one can foresee the day when all bread will be wrapped prior to sale to the consumer. The prime aim of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Amendment Regulations appears to be that the sale of all foodstuffs from mobile shops should be controlled and that the hygienic conditions prevailing at the stall should compare favourably and be as near as possible to those provided by the better class of shop from which food is sold. Every mobile trader operating a mobile shop within the Urban Area was supplied with a free copy of a summary of these Regulations by the Department when they first came into operation at the beginning of the year, and given every possible assistance and advice on the interpretation of the Regulations. Difficulty was first experienced by many traders who, up to the time of their introduction, had enjoyed almost unrestricted conditions of trade. All the mobile shops, among which the ubiquitous mobile ice cream van must, of course, be included are regularly inspected in order to see that the requirements of the Regulations are complied with. Infringements discovered are immediately notified to the Proprietor and are, in most cases, promptly rectified.

In 1967, as for many years past, a large proportion of the time of your Officers was again taken up with :-

- (a) - Investigation of complaints of disrepair received from occupiers of houses.
- (b) - General inspection of dwelling houses.

A large number of houses within the area are very old, sub-standard, and situated in congested conditions, having no hot water, or bathrooms. Many, indeed, are without even a kitchen sink for the proper disposal of waste water.

Some of these houses are rapidly approaching, and in many cases have even passed, the hundred years old mark. Such dwellings are economically unfit for retention and the Council has provisionally agreed that when conditions are favourable, and alternative homes are available, they will be demolished and the sites cleared. The majority of these dwellings are in the northern part of the district. In Pontllytyn, two Clearance Areas are pending at the time of preparation of this report, totalling together 60 houses. Concurrently with this Slum Clearance, proposals are in an advanced stage for the provision of 200 new dwellings on two other sites in close proximity to those to be demolished and cleared, thus minimising the disruption and upheaval that can be caused through operations of this nature. It would be an understatement to say that the provision of new housing would be welcomed, and is much needed in the township of Pontllytyn where conditions are, through sheer old age and obsolescence, some of the worst in the whole district.

Similar proposals have been made in connection with four, remote and isolated dwelling houses at Fochriw, known as Pit Row. These comprise a short terrace of houses which are completely surrounded by old colliery spoil heaps. Proposals involving these dwellings include that of clearing and levelling the whole site so that it can be once again developed as an industrial or playing field area.

Among dwelling houses which were Closed as Unfit for Human Occupation during 1967 were :-

- (a) - a terrace of four houses at Bargoed ;
- (b) - a terrace of four houses at Coedcae, Tirphil ;
- (c) - a caravan dwelling at Pontllytyn which, apart from being on an unauthorised site, was in a condition of complete dilapidation and grossly overcrowded.

Routine inspection of houses was again carried out, and there now exists in the Department recorded details of several thousand houses within the area which have been visited and inspected by this method. Cases of gross overcrowding of dwellings are now infrequently met with, and when they are discovered are found to be caused by the natural growth of the family rather than two or more families being forced to live under one roof.

Under powers provided by the Housing Act, 1964, Local Authorities have powers to enforce the improvement of dwelling houses by the installation of "Standard Amenities" into houses lacking these facilities. These measures can be cumbersome and involved, and may again, in certain circumstances, take some considerable amount of time before coming to fruition. Individual owner/occupiers of houses may still make application for improvement grants which are available for the installation of these amenities - namely, the provision of bathroom, hot water supply, water closet apartment, and ventilated food store, and very many have indeed taken advantage of this scheme. Although every effort has been made, both nationally and locally to publicise this fact, much greater advantage could undoubtedly be taken of the grant aid available to provide houses with these essential facilities.

During 1967, I am informed through the courtesy of the Clerk's Department, the following grants were made for house improvements :-

Number of discretionary grants paid	-	41
Number of standard grants paid	-	22

Below is a comparision of grants paid during the past years :-

<u>Year</u>		<u>Discretionary Grants</u>		<u>Standard Grants</u>
1960	...	48	...	9
1961	...	24	...	24
1962	...	28	...	19
1963	...	33	...	24
1964	...	40	...	26
1965	...	30	...	21
1966	...	42	...	80
1967	...	41	...	22
		286		225

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

As a result of complaints received	...	812
In connection with housing repairs	...	545

VISITS MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

To dirty and verminous premises	...	53
As a result of Notifiable Disease	...	7
To Schools	...	59
To Piggeries and Smallholdings	...	61
To premises without a Mains water supply	...	24
To moveable dwellings	...	42
To Cinemas and places of entertainment	...	18
To Licensed Premises and Clubs	...	85
To premises conducting Offensive Trades	...	23
To Refuse tips and Ash Tips	...	59
To rear lanes	...	243
To Hairdressing Establishments	...	31

To Dairy Premises	...	62
To Grocery Establishments	...	303
To Cafes and Restaurants	...	198
To Factories and Bakehouses	...	207
To Butchers' Shops	...	132
To School and Industrial Canteens	...	69
To Ice-Creameries	...	51
To Licensed Premises	...	95
To Fish Friers and Fish Restaurants	...	33

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS

The total number of visits made was 1,149.

In company with the Council's Housing Manager, inspections of Council houses were made where deemed necessary and desirable. Visits made were :-

- a) - to dwellings as a direct instruction from the Council or Housing Committee, or resulting from complaints by neighbours or other interested persons, where the required standards of cleanliness were not being maintained, or were in danger of deteriorating.
- b) - to dirty and verminous houses, or to houses whose tenants were troubled by infestation of insect pests such as cockroaches or ants.
- c) - to houses which were abused by tenants ; or inspection of houses intended to be occupied by Council tenants with, where necessary, disinfection or disinfection of premises and furniture.

HOUSING ACTS 1957 - 1961 and Local Government
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1953.

I am grateful to Mr. D.W.C. Morgan, Clerk of the Council, for the following figures

Number of houses on which Demolition Orders were made	...	9
Number of houses on which Closing Orders were made	...	3
involving the whole of the premises	...	3
involving part of the premises	...	-
Number of Closing Orders revoked following undertakings	...	1
by owners accepted by the Council		
Number of houses demolished as a result of Compulsory		
Purchase or Clearance Orders	...	7
Number of families rehoused as a result	...	7

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1953 RENT ACT, 1957

Number of application received for Certificates of Disrepair	-	nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	-	nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	-	nil
Number of undertakings by owners accepted by the Council	-	nil
Number of applications for Revocation of Certificates accepted	-	nil
Number of Certificates revoked by the Council	-	nil
Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair refused by the Council	-	nil
Number of visits made to premises by Public Health Inspectors in connection with Certificates of Disrepair	-	nil

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955 - 60

Principal food retail premises in the Gelligaer Urban Area are :-

Butchers' Shops	-	41
Ice Cream Manufacturers	-	10
Ice Cream Vendors	-	145
Bakehouses	-	5
Grocery stores	-	112
Cafes and Restaurants	-	22
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	-	16
Public Houses and Clubs	-	64

There are 23 premises in the area which are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - premises which are, or may be used, for the manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. Such foods include meat products such as sausages, faggots, meat pies and pasties, cooked hams and brawns, and tongues. Many of these products are becoming now monopolised by large specialist manufacturers who distribute their goods wholesale from large controlled depots at frequent and regular intervals. All food premises are regularly visited and inspected in order to see that the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, and the Food Hygiene Regulations are adhered to. Most food traders were supplied with copies of the Food Hygiene Regulations when they were first introduced, and copies are still available in the Public Health Department and are quite often supplied to food handlers who have lost or mislaid their original copy. Food manufacturers and food handlers generally readily co-operate in efforts to please their customers and incidentally enhance their businesses by complying with necessary local requirements. In this, they are greatly aided by the almost universal improvement of food premises today brought about by the use of laminated plastic materials, glass, or stainless steel used for shop fittings and fixtures, which reduce to the very minimum the need for cleaning and scrubbing in shop premises. Almost every shop, however small, has a refrigerator, thus allowing perishable foods to be kept longer and with a greater degree of safety. The main streets of town today are invariably taken over by shops having regional or national coverage, and which consign the small shop-keepers to the back streets.

Trading methods have drastically changed, and today it is the aim of the supermarket to provide for all the needs of the housewife under one roof. Grocers no longer confine their sales to groceries, but sell meat and meat products, while butchers, in turn, also retail tinned foods, and even fresh vegetables. With all this, however, there is still need for watchfulness and the application of a good basic training and sound common sense in efforts to arrive at, and maintain, the high hygienic standards demanded.

Complaints of contamination or adulteration of foodstuff are still brought into the office occasionally, caused by gross carelessness or neglect on the part of food handlers, and among such instances in 1967 were :-

- (a) - a tin of lambs' tongues which also contained a finger bandage. The distributors and importers were both communicated with in this instance, and the complaint forwarded to the exporting firm in Australia.
- (b) - a tin of processed peas which had almost complete evaporation of the liquid content, and had a most obnoxious smell.
- (c) - two separate pints of milk, one of which had what appeared to be ash from a spent firework at the bottom of the bottle.
- (d) - a number of wrapped loaves of bread which contained mould, and which had obviously been wrapped before proper cooling had been effected. In one case of an unsound loaf, a fine of £5 with 6 guineas costs was imposed by the local Court. In another instance, where the loaf of bread was found to contain a blood stained bandage, the offending firm was fined a total of £63.10.0 (including costs) for the offence. Prosecutions in each case were instituted by the Glamorgan County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority for the area, based upon information supplied by the Public Health Department.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Articles of food which are found, on examination, to be unfit for human consumption are dealt with by incineration on the shop premises or, where it is practicable, by collection by the Council's refuse lorries with subsequent deep burial on one of the Council's refuse tips ; or, after sterilisation by thorough boiling used as animal feeding stuffs.

Food found to be unfit during 1967 included the following :-

<u>Canned Fruit and Vegetables</u>	-	201 lbs. Tomatoes ;	131 lbs. Pears;
		21 lbs. Peaches ;	92 lbs. Pineapple;
		33 lbs. Strawberries ;	
		103 lbs. Peas.	20 lbs. Beans.
<u>Fresh Meats</u>	-	60 lbs. Sheep's Liver;	
		16 lbs. Pork ;	
		141 lbs. Beef.	
<u>Canned Meats</u>	-	141 lbs. Corned Beef ;	
		42 lbs. Tongue ;	
		29 lbs. Steak ;	
		260 lbs. Ham ;	
		54 lbs. Jellied Veal ;	
		23 lbs. Meat Loaf;	
<u>Fresh and Canned Fish</u>	-	31 lbs. Salmon ;	
		27 lbs. Pilchards ;	
		8 lbs. Crab ;	
<u>Miscellaneous Foodstuffs</u>	-	60 lbs. Soup ;	
		206 lbs. Biscuits ;	
		56 lbs. Rice ;	
		57 lbs. Flour ;	
		56 jars Salmon Spread ;	
		158 jars Potted Beef ;	
		93 pkts. Potato Crisps ;	
<u>Frozen Foods</u>	-	136 pkts. Peas ;	
		29 pkts. Mixed Vegetables ;	
		29 Meat Pies.	

The total weight of all foods found to be unfit for human consumption was :-

16 cwts. 68 lbs.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947 - 52

143 premises within the Urban Area are registered for the sale of ice-cream. These premises consist of cafes, restaurants, grocers, and even licensed premises, as well as small parlour-type shops. Many of these latter, however, operate sporadically in their ice-cream sales, or have, in some instances, been squeezed out of business by the very keen competition prevailing, especially in the favourable weather conditions during the warmer months of the year.

All premises were registered for the manufacture of ice-cream under the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Several of these rely on 'cold mix.' manufacture where the complete ice-cream powder is purchased ready mixed, and with the correct ingredients from large specialised firms who market the powder in sealed containers which are delivered to their customers. All that is required to produce ice-cream is to add the stated amount of water direct from the tap and freeze the mixture, after which the product is ready for sale. This has the advantage that the trader can manufacture the product more or less in accordance with his estimated sale requirements. Samples of ice-cream taken during the year and submitted for examination are as follows :-

48 samples taken ;
 38 samples showed a satisfactory result ;
 10 samples showed an unsatisfactory result ;

Samples which show an unsatisfactory result are repeated until a satisfactory result is obtained. Most ice-creams today, particularly those prepared by the large manufacturers, are pre-packed before leaving the factory. Particular attention is paid to traders retailing the loose, unwrapped commodity. Many mobile vans, several coming from outside the Urban Area, also retail ice-cream. Some of these vans are fitted with expensive machinery which manufactures ice-cream as and when required.

WATER SUPPLIES

Piped water supply is provided to the majority of houses in the area. In fact, only a small percentage of isolated cottages and farms remain unconnected to the main supply, and have to rely on rain water, mountain streams and springs. In not one instance is any dwelling dependant on a deep or shallow well for its domestic water supply. Complaints of inadequate pressure to kitchen taps are occasionally received. These are always referred to the Taf Fechan Water Board who co-operate in efforts to improve existing supplies.

While a large number of houses in the area are not supplied with running hot water, this number is being reduced annually by the installation of gas and electric heaters for kitchen sinks. These fittings ensure that hot water is available for ordinary household chores.

During the year, 13 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis. All but 1 of these samples were satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND REGULATIONS 1949 - 1959

Milk is produced by 45 farms in the area. The major portion of this is taken in churns from whence it is collected by the Pasteurising Plants which operate outside the area. Since 1961, the Licensing Authority for the retailing of all grades of milk has been vested in the Food and Drugs Authority which, for this area, is the Glamorgan County Council. The responsibility for milk sampling also falls on the Glamorgan County Council.

Complaints, apart from the misuse of milk bottles, were few. There were no complaints regarding the quality of the milk itself. With regard to the misuse of milk bottles, it is interesting to note that the greater variety of materials used for food packing means that more use is now being made of non-returnable containers for milk, particularly for milk supplies to schoolchildren.

Yet another grade of milk has now appeared on the market lately, although up to the present supplies in the area are limited. Designed principally for sale in supermarkets and similar large stores, the milk is processed by the Ultra High Temperature method (U.H.T.). By this process, milk is raised to a temperature considerably higher than that for the ordinary process of pasteurisation (162°F.) before storing in triangular shaped cartons made of a special type toughened paper which is lined with polythene and aluminium foil. The cartons are so shaped that they can be stacked in such a manner as to take up the minimum amount of space. It is claimed that this grade of milk will remain sterile for several months and that by the process milk can be exported to countries such as Africa and the Middle East without in any way losing its traditional characteristics or flavour. Milk intended for the home market is stored in similar type but differently constructed cartons which, it is claimed, keeps the product fresh and free from bacteria for as long as three weeks. As may be expected, it is slightly more expensive to the customer than ordinary pasteurised milk.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

Frequent visits were made to all school canteens during the year. For the 32 schools there are 18 school kitchens, some kitchens preparing and cooking meals which are conveyed by motor vehicles to smaller schools where kitchens are not provided. In these cases, food is placed whilst still hot into insulated stainless steel containers, and delivered in a very short time to the required point. Almost 100 women are engaged in the preparation, cooking, and serving of well over 4,000 meals daily during the school year at schools in the area. The meals served are wholesome and appetising. Every effort is made by all personnel concerned to maintain the high standard attained during the years since the School Meals Service was first instituted.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Five caravan sites have been approved for licensing by the Council.

Apart from one site which is licensed for forty caravans, the others are for single dwellings only.

All are licensed and are used as permanent residential dwellings by their occupiers, many of whom have expressed a view that they would prefer this mode of life rather than permanent residence in a conventional type of dwelling house.

There are no caravans used solely for seasonal or holiday purposes, and apart from the very occasional traveller who may camp by the roadside for no longer than one night, the area has been singularly free from mobile dwellings of this nature. All sites are periodically visited and inspected and the Model Bye-Laws which have been published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the guidance of Local Authorities enforced. Every effort is made to supervise all types of mobile dwellings within the boundaries of the area, and thus prevent nuisances, and the distribution of litter and rubbish from open spaces by this fraternity.

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VANDALISM

Very many complaints are received by all Departments of the Council regarding vandalism and general misuse of Council property, and the various Committees of the Council have periodically expressed concern, and even alarm, at the public expense involved and inconvenience caused by wanton damage to roadside seats, street lighting equipment, public lavatories and fittings, omnibus shelters etc. It is difficult to understand how damage caused to premises and fittings such as these can, and does, go unobserved and without some members of the general public witnessing such acts and then reporting the matter to the proper authorities so that the culprits may be brought properly to book.

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BYE-LAWS - HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

All Barbers and Hairdressing Establishments in the area have been supplied with copies of the Bye-Laws relating to hygiene and cleanliness standards that must be provided and maintained at their premises, which came into operation at the commencement of 1964. There are 41 such establishments known to the Department, some of these being conducted in front rooms of private houses, and probably more unofficial ones carried out by friends and relatives. Infringements of these conditions imposed by the Bye-Laws constitute an offence and are punishable by a fine on conviction.

LICENSED PREMISES AND CLUBS

There are 64 Licensed Premises within the Urban Area, made up as follows :-

35 Public Houses
29 Licensed Clubs.

Regular visits were made to all Licensed Premises, both during hours of business and when closed to the public. In past years, very many improvements and additions have been made to premises of this nature, more particularly to Clubs. These improvements apply to both hygienic and sanitary features, and amenities and comforts for the customer or Club Member, such as fitted carpets and floor coverings, laminated plastic topped counters and tables are provided, and much more comfortable seating, artificial lighting, and ventilation found. Colour television has also been installed in some premises.

All inspections, especially those in the case of Club Premises, are welcomed by the Management or Committee concerned, and the Department is not infrequently consulted when new developments or additional facilities are contemplated. Any infringements of the Acts or Regulations discovered during inspection are immediately notified to the Brewery Company or, in the case of a Club, to the Club Secretary concerned. During the year, letters forwarded to such people included the following :-

- (a) - To repair or renew existing surfaces of counters and shelves.
- (b) - Repair or renew defective and burst water pipes, and flushing cisterns.
- (c) - Requiring the redecoration or repointing of walls and ceilings of rooms.
- (d) - Requiring the redecoration and cleansing of sanitary conveniences.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS 1933 - 1958

7 persons residing in the area are registered as slaughtermen. There is no Slaughterhouse in the Urban District. Almost all fresh meat sold in the shops is brought in from other districts where slaughterhouses are sited, such as at Buttry Hatch, Maesycwmmwr ; Brynmawr ; Cardiff and Newport. Meat imported from abroad - i.e. Canterbury Lamb, Argentinian or Australian beef, is distributed from cold stores and warehouses situated at the docks at Cardiff and Newport, distribution being done by large motor vehicles which deliver directly to the retail shops.

During 1967, 12 cottagers' pigs, kept by pig keepers at smallholdings or allotments were slaughtered for human consumption ; these were all inspected as to fitness by your Inspectors.

By arrangement with the Council of Bedwas and Machen Urban Area, your Inspectors also carry out relief work during holidays or periods of illness at the Maesycwmmwr Slaughterhouse.

PET ANIMALS ACTS 1937 and 1961

Two premises, both in Bargoed, are registered by the Council for the sale, and keeping for the purpose of sale, of pet animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, budgerigars, gold fish, cats and dogs. Both premises were regularly visited during the year, and no complaints arose or were received during the period.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

Since 1959, when the only Common Lodging House in the area was closed, there has been no premises of this nature in operation.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

In March, 1967 the Council decided to allocate all duties under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act to their Public Health Inspectors on the resignation from office of the Offices and Shops Inspector.

277 premises within the area are registered under the Act, and come within the scope of the Act, employing a total of 1,533 people.

Number of premises registered	-	277
Number of visits made to such premises	-	457
Number of persons employed	-	1,533
Number of inspections of premises	-	213
Number of accidents to personnel reported	-	4
Number of new premises registered in 1967	-	13

Although the obligation to be registered is upon the owner of the business concerned, invariably pressure has to be brought to bear by your Inspectors before this is done. Many contraventions of the Act and Regulations still take place despite the publicity occasionally announced, and the activities of Trade Unions in the matter, and among contraventions discovered during inspections were the following :-

- (a) - insufficient, or even absence of, first aid equipment provided for employees;
- (b) - no abstract of the Act provided or displayed;
- (c) - inadequate provision for washing ;
- (d) - no adequate accommodation for personal clothing ;
- (e) - no running and constant supply of hot water available.

One dealer was prosecuted during the year for contravening the Act. Fines of £1.0.0 on each of eight counts, with three guineas costs were imposed.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1955
ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES

Two premises where offensive trades are conducted exist within the Urban Area. One is at Ystrad Mynach, and the other at Bargoed. At both premises only old and discarded textile materials and ferrous and non-ferrous materials are collected and stored. No animal bones or waste meat products are dealt with nowadays, thus greatly reducing possible nuisance from offensive smells and rodent infestation. Waste products of this nature are collected three times a week by a large specialist firm, collecting directly from butchers' shops in the district, thus effectively minimising any possible offence which material of this nature may cause. Dealers of this kind perform a useful service to the community by collecting and disposing of waste and unwanted articles such as old metal bedsteads, bicycles, perambulators etc. Since 1965, when the Scrap Metal Dealers' Act came into operation and implementation by Police and Local Authorities, all persons engaged in this trade are now required to be registered by the Council of the Area in which they operate or reside. Four persons have been registered by the Gelligaer Council.

Of late years, the problem of abandoned derelict motor cars has been very much before the public eye; so much so that questions have been asked in Parliament on the subject, and now additional legislation on the matter is in force. The grave danger of abandoned vehicles does not seem to have penetrated the minds of persons guilty of this offence. Cases have been reported in the Press of children coming seriously injured by igniting petrol that may have been left in the tanks of such vehicles, or of sustaining serious cuts from broken windscreens or jagged edges of protruding rusty metalwork, and it does not require much imagination to realise how children could be maimed for the rest of their lives through the thoughtless act of persons who should have known better. This problem has been under consideration by the Council many times, and every possible step has been taken to try to prevent vehicles being abandoned, or to trace owners of such vehicles afterwards and enforce their removal. 89 vehicles of various kinds have been traced by the Department and afterwards removed and disposed of by a Scrap Metal Dealer engaged by the Council to do this work, thus not only removing a potential danger, but also substantially contributing to improving the amenities of the area.

Whilst dealing with the matter of unwanted articles and scrap, it is appropriate at this juncture to once again give publicity to the fact that unwanted household articles, such as old mattresses, carpets and floor coverings may be, by arrangement, collected and disposed of by the Council. It is hoped that this additional service will go some way to prevent the spoiling of open spaces and maintain them by people who deliberately dump discarded articles of this nature on open spaces, rear lanes, etc.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

The work involved in the destruction of rats and mice, and the eradication of insect pests generally continued unceasingly during the year. The figures given below show a summary of the work done, together with the number of visits made to various premises and places frequented by these pests.

		<u>Inspected</u>	<u>Treated</u>	<u>Visits made</u>
Dwelling houses	...	334	329	579
Business premises	...	30	30	133
Refuse tips and dumps	...	97	43	197
Rivers, brooks and culverts..		69	45	93

The bi-annual treatment for rats in the sewerage system of the area continued during the period under review as has been customary for many years, with the full co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. These twice yearly treatments have undoubtedly contributed very materially to the reduction and control of the rat population of sewers and drains.

Once again, a large number of complaints were received in connection with the presence of rats in and around dwelling houses, and it is difficult to impress upon residents and neighbours that this may be largely due to actions which they themselves take by carelessness in disposing of waste foodstuffs, refuse and rubbish upon which these pests feed, and in allowing accumulations of rubbish beneath, or in which, rats may find shelter and soon breed. Much could be done to reduce these infestations and complaints by the exercise of a little thought and common sense. One infestation of rats in dwelling houses which is of interest occurred in the attic of two semi-detached houses on a fairly large estate. This occurred regularly at about three monthly intervals. After poison baiting all rats were cleared, but it was found that the process had to be repeated at intervals as stated. The co-operation of the owners of the estate was sought and much work of rat-proofing done, again to no avail. Ultimately the owners were persuaded to take up the solid floors inside one of the houses, when it was found that there were stone ware pipes beneath the floor apparently leading to nowhere, but which had obviously been placed in position when the house was built over 40 years ago. Rats were using these pipes to gain access to the house, and then climbing to the attics by means of the cavity between the brick exterior walls. No further infestations occurred since the removal of the pipes and renewal of the floors.

23 dwelling houses were disinfested after infestation by vermin, usually bed bugs. The majority of these dwellings were Council owned houses.

FACTORIES' ACTS 1937 - 61

83 factories of various types and sizes operate within the Area. These include factories which are engaged in light and heavy engineering, and employing substantial numbers of operatives, and the 'back-room' type of a radio or television dealer and which may be used only occasionally. Other factories manufacture motor car components, children's toys, food containers, and various other miscellaneous products. With the run-down of the coal industry of late years, upon which this district largely depended, every effort has been made by the Council to attract industrialists into the Area so as to provide alternative means of employment, and an area of land has been set aside for this purpose and freely publicised through various media. Frequent visits are made to all factories for the purpose of inspection and enforcement of the Factories' Acts, and factories within the district may be classified as follows :-

Factories to which Sections 2,3,4,5,6,and 7 of the Act applies	- 79
Factories to which Section 7 only applies	- 3

Number of visits to factory premises during the year	- 207
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Six notices were served during the year upon owners or persons responsible directing attention to the Acts or Regulations :-

a) - regarding defects to sanitary conveniences	- 2
b) - requiring proper cleaning of windows, walls and ceiling	- 1
c) - requiring redecoration of internal walls and ceilings	- 3

39 persons - namely women and old-aged pensioners, are employed as outworkers under the Act. Their work consists of minor alterations to clothing, or the dressing or trimming of moulded rubber articles.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. THOMAS

Senior Public Health Inspector

